



May 5-6, 2018

The Benefits of Serving Jesus Ready for Rewards

1 Corinthians 15:19 (NIV[®])

¹⁹ If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.

1 Corinthians 9:24 (NIV[®])

²⁴ Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize.

I. Great Rewards

Hebrews 10:35-38 (NASB[®])

³⁵ Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has **a great reward**. ³⁶ For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.

³⁷ FOR YET IN A VERY LITTLE WHILE, HE WHO IS COMING WILL COME, AND WILL NOT DELAY.

³⁸ BUT MY RIGHTEOUS ONE SHALL LIVE BY FAITH; AND IF HE SHRINKS BACK, MY SOUL HAS NO PLEASURE IN HIM.

Matthew 19:27-30 (NIV[®])

²⁷ Peter answered him, "We have left everything to follow you! What then will there be for us?"

²⁸ Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. ²⁹ And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life. ³⁰ But many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first.

A. Spiritual Health Check ---God examines us

Job 23:10 (NIV[®])

¹⁰ But he knows the way that I take; when he has tested me, I will come forth as gold.

Psalms 66:10-12 (NIV[®])

¹⁰ For you, O God, tested us; you refined us like silver. ¹¹ You brought us into prison and laid burdens on our backs.

¹² You let men ride over our heads; we went through fire and water, but you brought us to a place of abundance.

Psalms 7:9 (NIV[®])

⁹ O righteous God, who searches minds and hearts, bring to an end the violence of the wicked and make the righteous secure.

Psalms 26:2 (NIV[®])

² Test me, O LORD, and try me, examine my heart and my mind;

B. Evaluated now, Established as genuine

1 Peter 1:6-7 (NIV[®])

⁶ In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷ These have come so that your faith--of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire--**may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.**

II. Judgment Seat of Christ

2 Corinthians 5:8-10 (NIV[®])

⁸ We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹ So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. ¹⁰ For **we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ**, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

1 Peter 4:16-18 (NIV®)

¹⁶ However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.

¹⁷ For **it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God**; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God? ¹⁸ And, "If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?"

Romans 14:10, 12 (NIV®)

¹⁰ You, then, why do you judge your brother? Or why do you look down on your brother? **For we will all stand before God's judgment seat.**

¹² So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God.

A. No Condemnation

Romans 8:1 (NIV®)

¹ Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NIV®)

²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

1 Corinthians 1:30 (NIV®)

³⁰ It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God--that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.

B. Effort/Obedience Rewarded

1 Corinthians 3:8 (NIV®)

⁸ The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and **each will be rewarded according to his own labor.**

1 Corinthians 3:11-15 (NIV®)

¹¹ For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹² If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, ¹³ his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work. ¹⁴ **If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward.** ¹⁵ If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.

Summary

1. Jesus offers a new life (beyond time)
2. Commitment required
3. God will prepare the willing
4. Jesus will evaluate your life "under the sun"
5. Faith/belief is more valuable when refined
6. Hidden things will be made evident
7. Great rewards for obedient service

Prayer

Heavenly Father, search me and help me to know my heart. Deliver me from a life of deception that I may choose a path which honors You. Establish me and I will be secure, You anoint my head with blessing and honor ---for I choose You above all else. May the glory of God be reflected in my life. Let Jesus be praised for his transforming power at work in me. Give me strength to complete the course You have marked out for me, in Jesus' name, amen.

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